THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, June 23, 1806.

On the present Constitution and Government in France.

[From Mr. Wilkes's Encyclopædia Londinensis, Vol. VII. Article France.]

THE present government of France, (1806,) strictly speaking, appears to be neither monarchical, nor republican; though it participates of both. The emperor, at the present day, is perhaps the most absolute monarch on the face of the earth; yet the consituted authorities continue very nearly upon the same footing as when the consular government was erected in 1799; the first moving principle being in the primary assemblies, and the legislative authority under the controul of a conservative senate, a tribunate, and a prytaneum of fifty counsellors. The executive power resides still in the emperor, as it did before in the first consul; but Napoleon, as we have already seen, considers the constitution as a republic; and not unfrequently appeals to what he calls the first earthly authority —the will and majesty of the people.

The organization of the French empire is at present as follows: The state is divided into one hundred and eight departments, including the six Piedmontese: and are considered as being so many totally distinct provinces. Each department is itself subdivided into three, four, or five districts, called *communal arrondissements*. These districts are, in their turn, subdivided into cantons. Lastly, each canton is composed of a certain number of communes; that is to say, of towns and villages. A commune is sometimes a single town, and sometimes an union of several villages, possessing a mayor and a communal municipality. All the considerable cities are divided into several communes. The dispensations of authority might be endangered by the union of the inhabitants of an

extensive city. By this maxim, divide and govern, the inhabitants of the same town have almost ceased to be fellow-citizens.

Each department is administered by a prefect, and as many sub-prefects as it contains districts. The details of the administration descend from the sub-prefects to the mayors, who are appointed by the emperor. Each district has a primary judicial tribunal, and each department a criminal tribunal. Every three departments possess a tribunal of appeal, which takes cognizance, by appeal, of all the causes determined by the tribunals of the districts under its jurisdiction. Lastly, each canton has a justice of the peace. All the tribunals of appeal acknowledge a superior tribunal, called the court of cassation, possessing the power of annulling the sentences of the tribunals of appeal which appear to it illegal, and of referring the examination of the cause to any other tribunal it shall please to appoint.

The spirit of the constitution is still derived from the grand fundamental principles of legislation laid down by the national assembly on the 23d of September, 1789, accompanied with a declaration of the "rights of men and of citizens,"—all of which were received and recognized under the solemnity of an oath by the unfortunate Louis XVI. on the 10th of July, 1790, as constituting the free constitution of France. See p. 771—777. All the innovations which have since occurred, appear to be only different modifications of the same fundamental principles, intended either to operate as a cure in cases of defect or insufficiency in the former provisional articles, or to forward the views of some ambitious party. Thus the new constitution, as it was termed, of the 23d of August, 1795, was framed in order to remedy the defective parts of the constitution of 1789, and to render it more consonant to the new order of things, which had taken place in consequence of the condemnation and execution of the king. See p. 812, 813. The other new forms or alterations which have taken place, appear to be calculated more for the purpose of adapting the constitution to the executive departments of the state, than to vary the principles of national legislation and security. The reader will readily perceive this to have been the case, by referring to pages 720, 794, 798, under Robespierre; 828, under Barras; 884, under the consulate; and p. 862, under the empire.

The body of laws which has resulted from this new constitution, has hitherto proved highly beneficial to the people; and their emancipation from the old system of oppression, which was shamefully exercised by those put in authority under the crown, as well as under the church, has taught them to look with indifference on the dreadful devastations and expence of blood which followed from the violent convulsions of the revolution; nor to regard in whom shall exist the right of succession,

cession, or on what account the horrors of war shall be continued, so that their persons are protected in the sacred enjoyment of their liberty, and their property secured from the rapacity of state plunderers and inquisitorial persecutors; of which indeed they had endured their share:—of affliction, their cup was full. See p. 765, 766. To prevent in future this infamous species of peculation, the new constitution provides entirely for the maintenance of its courts and officers, both civil and ecclesiastical, by adequate salaries, without subjecting the people to be fleeced by them. In the whole civil establishment, there are no honorary offices whatever, except the mayors of incorporated cities and towns. For the prompt and impartial administration of justice, there are thirty courts of appeal, which are attended by near six hundred superior judges; two thousand civil and criminal judges, and three thousand six hundred conservators of the peace, who receive entirely their remuneration from the government; and the act of demanding or receiving a fee, subjects them not only to a severe penalty, but incapacitates them from ever after holding any office or place of trust.

Hence the operation of law is both speedy and exemplary. Reasonable allowances are made to witnesses both for time and expences at the public charge—a loss is not doubled by the costs of a prosecution to recover it. In cases of robbery, where property found is detained for the sake of proof, it does not become the prey of official rapacity, but an absolute restitution takes place to the rightful owners. The legislature has, in many respects, copied the laws of England; but it has simplified the forms, and rectified many abuses which make proceedings in the British courts almost as formidable to the prosecutor as to the culprit. Having to compose an entire new system, and being unshackled by professional reverence for precedents, they were at liberty to benefit by example, to reject those errors which have been long sanctioned by their antiquity in other countries, and are still permitted to exist through dread of innovation. The French, however, made an attempt to improve on the trial by jury, which only serves to evince that the institution, as adopted in England, is not to be excelled. The decision in France is given by ballot, unanimity is not required, three white balls are sufficient to acquit the prisoner. This deviation from the English mode seems to give the rich an advantage over the poor. In the number of twelve men taken from any country, it will sometimes happen that three may be found corruptible: now the wealthy delinquent can avail himself of this human failing; but the indigent have much less chance of escaping by such means.

The abolition of the law of primogeniture, though the most silent in its operation, was one of the most powerful which supported the revolution, and increased the general mass of happiness in the republic. While hereditary property was entailed by law upon the elder branch of a family, that branch was respectable; but every other was reduced perhaps to a state of beggary. Thus the younger children are conscious that they owe the participation of the patrimonial fortune to the revolution, and are therefore attached to it; and thus among the richest does the division of half a million of revenue bring up eight families instead of one; but how many hundred millions in the course of a year are thus benefited, from similar distributions of fortune and happiness! A few years since the younger branches of these illustrious houses would have been billeted on the public fortune as priests, or placemen, and the females would have been immured in sepulchral cloisters. It appears in the enumeration made thirty years since, that the number of both sexes in France, who had embraced the monastic life, amounted to more than one hundred thousand, and the inferior clergy were almost equally numerous. Is agriculture, arts, commerce, or literature, benefited by such idle promoters of religion, morality, and social order?

The temporal state of the clergy in France is now very different indeed from what it was in former times. They have in general few means of support, over and above the stipend allowed by the government, except such as are supplied by the liberality of their respective flocks; supplies sometimes, especially in the country, equal to their wants, but far below their comforts. The state has been highly penurious with respect to this class of men, who have not only lost all by the new order of things, but have suffered something very nearly resembling persecution. Under the old government the number of clergy was immense! this reverend body consisted of twenty archbishops, one hundred and fifty bishops, and, as some have calculated, four hundred thousand inferior clergy. But this is evidently exaggerated, and must have included clerks, choristers, beadles, lay-officers, and all the servants of the church: the real clergy are supposed not to have amounted to more than one hundred and fifty thousand. The present mitred clergy in France consists of eleven archbishops, and only fifty-eight bishops; the inferior clergy are reduced in the same proportion; and are provided with salaries by the government, as particularized in p. 775.

On the abolition of the roman catholic religion under the tyranny of Robespierre, the scene of vice and immorality which pervaded all orders in the city and vicinity of Paris is scarcely to be conceived; but in the country, though the churches were plundered, and divine service prohibited, yet the

the people were more sedate, and the bulk of them retained in private their attachments to the catholic faith. Atheism for a time made ghastly strides; but deism was more generally received. Pagan idolatry, though it was actually set up by the convention, and the goddess of reason worshipped and adored in the cathedral of Paris, yet it was only the farce of a day, which ended in the disgrace and shame of its votaries: see p. 795. During this degraded state of affairs in France, there was not a church in Paris that did not exhibit the most affecting marks of sacrilegious violence. Every fragment that was suspected to contain the smallest particle of gold or silver, was seized by order of the convention; while the enemies of God and religion wantonly mutilated and destroyed every monumental figure devoted either to the memory of the dead, or that had been erected to celebrate the achievements of their kings and princes. The disorders which followed from this deplorable state of irreligion, pervaded all orders and ranks in society; the solemnity of the matrimonial contract was dissolved; modesty and virtue among females of all ages was despised; and the contact and union of the sexes was left to their own premature gratification and indulgence.

No event contributed more effectually to secure Napoleon in the sovereignty of France, than his timely restoration of the catholic religion, though under great and unusual restrictions. This measure, however, was not universally relished: several sectaries had sprung up; the protestant persuasion had gained considerable ground; and the philosophy of reason had been introduced with a view to supplant the doctrine of revelation. Few of the modern philosophers in France have any faith in revealed religion; not perhaps because they are philosophers, but because they have never studied the question, or have thought it beneath their study. In the established dogmas of the romish faith, they have beheld things which they deem absurd or unintelligible, and reject all further examination. The genuine doctrines of Christianity, and those of the church, are so inseparably connected in their minds, that they do not perceive the distinction, and wonder that any should be made. In the higher classes of society, sentiments of honour, and a regard to the decencies of life, may fill the void of more fixed and determined principles; but the short interregnum of jacobin impiety and paganism produced many ill effects on the ignorant and depraved amongst the lower orders of the people. Since the establishment of order under a tolerating government, the people have returned to the observance of religious duties: and if their minds be but little illumined, their conduct is become more methodized and regular. If religion be the first corrective of the disorders of the heart, it is the interest of every government to rank its protection among the

most

most important of its duties. Although Christianity institutes no exclusive form of government, they have discerned that it promotes that spirit of equality, which suffers us to call no man master on earth; not that levelling system, which, under pretence of destroying distinctions, degrades genius and debases virtue; but that equality which, while it teaches man his rights, instructs him better in his duties, and becomes the firmest guarantee of the new commandment left by the Saviour of the World, and which has hitherto unhappily retained its novelty,—that we should love one another.—See the article Equality, vol. vi. p. 874—878.

Extracts from the Reports of the Committee for relieving the Distresses in Germany.

(Continued from Page 472.)

Translation and Extract of a Letter from Salzburg, January 6, 1806.

"IN this town and neighbourhood numbers of inhabitants have, in consequence of the length of time they had the army quartered upon them, been totally ruined, and live now in the greatest want. In the country, many have been plundered of their all, and numbers of houses burnt to the ground.—At Berchtolsgaden, where the poor inhabitants earn their scanty supply of black bread by constant hard labour at the woodworks, the communication was for some time cut off, and many of the inhabitants were starved to death. Their trade is completely destroyed, and for want of work, and consequently of bread, their distresses are daily increasing. They stand in the greatest need of relief.—Lofer, the frontier county of Tyrol, was a dreadful scene of war; great part of it was plundered, and many a worthy family reduced to beggary."

Translation and Extract of a Letter from Augsburg, January 6, 1806.

" The places which have most suffered are,

" Swabia, especially the environs of Ulm.

" The environs of Brunn and Olmutz, near which the dreadful battle of Austerlitz took place.

" We will first of all consider Swabia. Three times, viz. in 1796, 1800, and 1805, has the theatre of war been brought into these environs; three entire districts, namely Soflingen, Ellschingen, and Alpeck, are totally annihilated.

" When Bonaparte, in October, with 200,000 men, surrounded the 84,000 Austrians, the season was very severe;

nearly 300,000 men, without tents, and without provisions, were obliged to lie in the open air. The unthreshed corn was taken from the barns, to build huts, light fires, and feed the horses: when this was expended, whole villages were pulled down to keep up watch-fires.

* * *

"All contributions, and their distribution, are to be published by the administrations. I mention this in answer to your proposal, to apply to the clergy, which is impracticable.—These inhabitants are principally roman catholics. You may, however, be persuaded that not the smallest fanaticism, or party views, will guide the distribution of the benefactions. The civil administration of Ulm are too enlightened, and they, as well as I who am a protestant, would look only to the man in distress.

"Gantzburg also has suffered very severely, owing to the resistance made at the taking of the bridge, and has been entirely plundered.

"Austria has at last also experienced the horrors of having the theatre of war within its boundaries. This country, however, is too extensive to render even the largest sum serviceable to each individual sufferer, which induces me to advise the confining the relief to the immediate environs of Olmutz and Brunn, where the terrible battle of Austerlitz has caused so many distresses. But, owing to the great distance of that part of the country from hence, I give you the address of the protestant school director, Mr. André, at Brunn, who is a meritorious worthy man, and whom the Rev. Mr. Steinkopff, no doubt, knows by means of his writings on education. This man possesses, through the publication of a useful journal, the entire confidence of the Archduke Charles: and has, through his great connections with all the first merchants of those environs, the best and surest means of distributing the donations, and proving the applications of the same. I know him personally, and write to him this day on the subject.

"The town of Augsburg, although declared neutral, was obliged to pay a requisiotin of 60,000 guilders, and had for several days above 40,000 men quartered upon the inhabitants; and if we allow each man to have been quartered here one day only we may calculate to have had above 500,000 men quartered in this city. Even the poor who lived from charity, were obliged to feed the soldiers, and carry their only bed to the hospitals, and themselves sleep upon straw. This has produced an excessive increase in the price of all provisions, and God knows our misery is great."

Extract

Extract of a Letter from Ulm, January 10, 1806.

" Let me give you a few particulars respecting the melancholy fate of the village Jungingen. Three times were the French driven out of it by the Austrians. All the houses were shot through. The poor inhabitants concealed themselves as well as they could. When the French had at last gained the victory, they began to plunder. Every thing moveable was taken away, even the clothes of the children. The flour they baked immediately, but in such a hurry, that it was not properly kneaded, so that even after the loaves were baked they were full of water. You may judge by this, how they were baked. The wife of a rich farmer expostulated with them: 'Take', said she, 'all the flour I have, use it properly, and there will be plenty, but do not waste it in such a sinful manner.' But all her remonstrances were ineffectual. They threw the oats unthrashed before the horses, and strewed the corn for their own beds.

" One poor woman, who was destitute of provisions for herself and five small children, was compelled to emigrate. She set off with an infant in her arms, and the eldest child, a cripple of ten years, led another. The father was just on the point of following with the rest of the family, when a ball struck him. A neighbour ran to his assistance, and finding him weltering in his blood, he fetched back his wife, but the poor man soon died of his wound.—As the provisions were all consumed, the village was entirely deserted for some time, with the exception of a single individual.—No idea can be formed of the mournful aspect of this village, with many others, after the battle. Numbers of French and Austrians, mingled with horses, guns, sabres, &c. were dispersed over the fields, dead or wounded, some stripped entirely of their clothes. The parsonage of this village was so damaged as to be quite uninhabitable, so that the clergyman was obliged to remove to a town at some distance; from whence he now walks every Sunday, even in the worst weather, there being no horse left to carry him."

Translation and Extract of a Letter from Prague, January 14, 1806.

" Your nation would, by pursuing the plan you have in view, erect itself a monument of eternal gratitude in the hearts of thousands of their fellow-creatures. Franconia and Swabia are now in the hands of your enemies; your generosity only can dictate whether the inhabitants of those countries are also worthy objects of relief.——Bohemia has also experienced the hardships of the war.—There are several districts in the mountainous parts deserving your kind regard, as they have severely

suffered from famine. But Moravia, Austria, and the Tyrol, are the scenes of the greatest distress; whole families have been brought to famine and poverty, whole districts of country ravaged; millions would not suffice to reinstate them in their former condition.

Translation and Extract of a Letter from Mr. Auer, Cashier, and Mr. J. Niebling, Comptroller, of the Merchants' Society in Ulm.

January 14, 1806.

"Whole villages have been stripped, but some individual families have suffered more than others, by the loss of a father, their only supporter: others the loss of a son, the comforter of their old age: many individuals have been wounded or crippled. Some lost part, others the whole of their cattle and utensils, clothes, furniture, and houses. From motives of precaution, assistance has hitherto been in part withheld, being desirous to wait the return of the French troops yet in Austria. The neighbouring counties, who have not so eminently been sufferers by the war, have, in some measure, kept the flying families from starvation."

Translation and Extract of a Letter from a respectable Merchant in Salzburg, to George Meyer, Esq. a Member of the London Committee, dated January 20, 1806.

"I have consulted with several members of the council, and other official characters, and they have acquainted me with the total amount of all requisitions, expences of the quartering of troops, plunder, and other loss, agreeable to an official statement of our government, sustained between the 30th of October and the 23d of November.—From this it appears that the whole amount of plunder suffered in the villages of twenty districts is 306,376 florins, 15 cruitzers; or about 28,280l. sterling.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Auer, Cashier of the Merchants' Society at Ulm, dated January 27, 1806.

"Have compassion still on our distressed poor. Their distress is great.—Enclosed are attested statements of the loss sustained by one district (Softingen) in cattle, during the months of September, October, and November, by means of the destructive war, viz.

572 Cows, estimated at 22,880 florins, each valued at about 40 florins, or about 3l. 15s.

185 Calves and heifers, estimated at 3700 florins, each valued at about 20 florins, or about 1l. 17s.

643 Pigs, estimated at 9645 florins, each valued at about 15 florins, or about 1l. 8s.

260 Sheep and goats, estimated at 1820 florins, each valued at about 7 florins, or about 14s.

293 Horses, estimated at 28,748 florins, each valued at about 98 florins, or about 9l. 5s.

Total 66,793 florins.

This is the loss of one district in cattle only, without considering the loss occasioned by the plunder and destruction of furniture, clothes, &c. &c.—It is, under all circumstances, surprising that we still exist, with the heavy pressure of men being quartered upon us continually.—Lord, by thy mercy alone are we supported!"

(To be continued.)

Character and Anecdotes of General Miranda, with some Account of his Plan to revolutionize South America.

GENERAL MIRANDA is a native of South America. He was born in the Caraccas, and was therefore a subject of the king of Spain. His family was a lineal descendant of the first settlers, and by his name, and their original rank in their province, we should be led to infer, that it was a younger branch of a noble family of the same title and surname in Old Spain.

The grandfather of General Miranda had the office of governor of the province, and his father, we believe, looked to the same office; but the jealousy of the court of Spain here interposed—the father of Miranda, like himself, was a native of South America, and the policy of Spain held it as an established principle to commit no office of trust to a native.

Hence, perhaps, the first origin of the discontent of Miranda. But we say this by inference only. It is the folly of history to pretend to account for every thing. Perhaps the singular spirit of Miranda is rather to be imputed to a mind naturally restless—a disposition formed for adventure. Indeed, when we call to our minds some of his peculiar traits, we are led to conclude that he would not have been less adventurous and intriguing, had he been born in England. However this may be, he had scarcely attained the period of youth, when leaving his home and country, he commenced his travels, or rather adventures, and this in a manner which sufficiently marked his ardent character. He resolved to travel on foot over the vast continent of America, north and south. Into these boundless regions did a youth, of scarcely twenty years of age, undaunted, and we are almost led to assert, with a purpose, great, though perhaps

perhaps obscure, then forming in his mind, fearlessly launch himself, and visiting cities, mountains, and forests, obtained that accurate local knowledge upon which he has built his present enterprise.

The most singular trait in this adventure, and what sufficiently marks his character, is, that he voluntarily performed it on foot. His family was very wealthy, and though no longer governors of the province, they were certainly, as having within the memory of many had that office, still most respectable in rank and consequence. Yet did the young Miranda, in the habit of a peasant, thus voluntarily undertake this painful labour of becoming acquainted with his native continent.

We believe he had not yet returned home, when the American war broke out. This we at least know, that he fought as a volunteer in that war, we believe in the last years of that contest so fertile of great events and characters. Here he became acquainted with the French officers,—an intimacy which led to the most prominent event of his life. He was naturally regarded in the army with admiration,—his courage, his spirit of adventure, and above all, his youth, threw an air of romance around him, which still farther augmented this general notice.

Upon the conclusion of peace he followed the French officers to the court of Versailles, where he was introduced to the late king. After travelling over France, and (we are minute that the reader may understand his peculiar character) visiting every old general; in a word, discovering his peculiar biass, he came to England, from whence he passed into Italy. He still preferred his early practice of travelling on foot. Perhaps he thought that it was the only effectual way of becoming acquainted with a country.

It is somewhat singular that he visited his own country, Old Spain, last. May it not be collected from this that he had already imbibed that spirit of discontent and dislike which has led to his present enterprize? Perhaps the principles of the American war were at work in his mind. We have nothing to say but to facts.

From Old Spain he returned to South America, where he reconciled himself to his family. Of this reconciliation we have indeed no certain knowledge, but collect it from the circumstance, that upon his subsequent return to Europe he was evidently possessed of a large property. His father, we believe, died some years back, in South America.

Upon his return to his home, he made a second tour through South America, the object of which it is impossible to misunderstand. If he had sought nothing in his first travels but the gratification of an idle spirit of adventure, it was plain this was not the object of his second tour. He no longer visited the

mountains and forests; his attention was now directed to cities, their fortifications, military works, &c. his examination for such, we may surely call it, was no sooner concluded than he took a voyage to New York.

What was his object in North America, except, indeed, it was that which appears to have been the great object of his life, it is impossible to say. Here, however, he remained 'till the second act of American independence, *i. e.* the French revolution, summoned him to Europe. He accordingly took ship for Rouen. We are here at a loss for dates, as we speak only from the information of the general's friends; we believe it was about 1789.

Here he remained for two years, when upon some business of the ruling party, he came as their private instrument to England. He here became acquainted with Mr. Pitt, who was accustomed to speak of him with admiration. He returned to France, and, after a short interval, back again to England.

His connection with many gentlemen now living, the greater part of them in power, and others whose names it would not be prudent to mention, compel us to pass over some transactions in this country; it will be sufficient to say, that by a kind of intrigue, in which the English court had its concern, he obtained an high military command in the French armies.—It is our full persuasion, however, that he had not the most distant intention of any treachery throughout this transaction. He hated indeed the ruling party, but he hated the cause of royalty still more.

Chance or contrivance rendered General Miranda second in command under General Dumourier. It was the bold advice of Miranda to Dumourier, that, addressing himself to the army, he should avow himself the defender of the cause of liberty, and lead them against the tyrants of Paris. When the commissioners came to arrest Dumourier, Miranda advised that they should be put to death, and that Dumourier, swearing hatred to royalty, should appeal to France. The event is known—Dumourier escaped, but Miranda was arrested and thrown into prison, from whence, in the vicissitudes of parties, he had the good fortune to effect his escape, and has since held his chief residence in London.

General Miranda appears to have been ever since occupied in preparation for his great and long-conceived enterprise,—that of revolutionizing, at least effecting the independence of his native country, South America.

The monopoly of Spain, and the regulations to which, in common with every other parent country, she has subjected her colonies, has long hung a heavy yoke upon the necks of the colonists. The weight of this yoke has not been alleviated by the sense of the superiority of the mother country. The colonists have not the consolation that their servitude is the tribute for their protection:—as incapable of protecting as governing

verning them, the mother country hangs a dead burthen upon her colonies. Like Anchises, in the fable, she is supported on the back of her children, but her children, unlike Æneas, are not much pleased with the weight. In the language of the same fable, travestied, " they care not how soon they shuffle off the old woman."

Thus is it at present, and thus has it long been, with Spain and her colonies. Her claim to their monopoly must be urged upon her former services, and not upon her present protection. But it is the persuasion of the colonies that this debt of former protection has been paid off by former servitude, and that the service of protection having ceased, the colonial redditus, the monopoly and subjection, should cease with it. In a word, that they should be no longer subject to a power which can neither give them an intercourse of commerce to mutual advantage in peace, nor probable protection in war.

The independence of North America gave birth to these principles—the French revolution has confirmed them. South America is now restrained within her obedience by two bars only—a very weak military force, and a militia already corrupted, being in fact but the country itself.

It was in this situation that General Miranda conceived his design of effecting his favourite purpose.

He promised Mr. Pitt, that with ten thousand men he would scour South America, and effect her independence. Mr. Pitt listened to him, but there were two impediments—the state of our armies, and the positive refusal of General Miranda to have any thing to do with the expedition, if he were not at least second in command. There was indeed a third—a doubt as to the policy of throwing Spain into the already overwhelming monarchy of France. If France hesitated to incorporate Spain, it was in the apprehension that England would immediately seize her colonies. If the colonies were become independent, Spain would in the same instant become a province of France.

General Miranda, however, received certain promises, which, had the late minister lived, would have been fulfilled. Mr. Pitt had a great mind. He was not to be daunted by inconsiderable dangers. We are persuaded that his views were latterly directed to Spanish America—but we cannot say that he intended to act as subordinate to the designs of Miranda.

What has been the subsequent course of Miranda?—He had a mind above servility; he accordingly adopted the singular purpose of attempting this boundless enterprise, the conquest of half a world, upon his own single resources.

The enterprize of Miranda is founded upon the following circumstances:—

1. From the boundless extent of the coast of Spanish America, he can choose his point of landing.

2. From

2. From the same circumstance, the whole military force, that is to say, the military force from the mother country, is distributed into small detachments, and these detachments are most remote from each other. In no signal post in America can there be a force of more than one thousand men.

3. The militia of the country is invariably in his cause.

4. If he could, therefore, raise sufficient force to withstand the attack of one or two or three detachments, for more could never join, he would be enabled to maintain his ground, and, revolutionizing as he went, add his conquests to his first force.

Such are his grounds of hope—upon his own resources, aided by a mercantile house at New York, he has obtained three ships, and about nine hundred men. What these men, resolute men, Englishmen and Americans—upon such an enterprise, and with such a leader,—what, these men, we say, will effect against a force of twice their number of degenerate and perhaps faithless Spaniards, we leave to the judgement of our readers. For our parts we have not the most slight hesitation to say, that, unless the English force interpose, he must succeed.

EVERY ONE TO HIS NOTION.

MOST certainly. If a man is a little odd in his way, as we vulgarly phrase it, or what the French call outre, his friends say he is a notional creature, or full of notions. And where is the man or woman living, that is not full of notions? Even the congress have their notions. One of the most distinguished spouters in that honourable body will insist upon it that the speaker of the house of representatives is next in rank to the president. This man is certainly a notional creature; but every one to his notion. Others have contended warmly that their residence ought to be fixed in the woods about Conegocheague; but it is best to remove thither, by little and little. Is not this a notion!

The legislature of Massachusets, some years ago, took it into their heads to kill the profession of law by a queer act; but the attempt failed. People would still go to lawyers, and lawyers would live, while people would employ them. But the general court was full of notions. Let lawyers multiply 'till a famine of business comes upon them, and then they will die like Egyptian frogs.

A neighbour of mine, who is a full-grown man, asserts, that the surface of the ocean is higher than the land, and that by a constant miraculous restraint of the Almighty, the water is kept from overflowing the earth. His opinion is founded on those

those words of scripture, " the bounds are set." This man is full of notions. Do not laugh at my neighbour, gentle reader, for I will bet ten to one, that in some other particulars, thou art just as notional thyself.

Love is the most notional passion; not excepting ambition and superstition. I once knew a woman, who had a very amiable daughter, declare it was monstrous indelicate for a young lady to love a man. She might love an elegant house, a carriage, and even money; but to love a man's person was shocking. But every one to her notion.

When I was a young man, I knew an attorney who was attached to what is called family; that is, whose family by good luck had stripped off their woollen shirts and checked aprons, just one generation before, and kept them off, 'till their companions who had associated with them in their woollen dress, were mostly dead. The attorney had not wore linen shirts so long by ten years as his family; and yet had the assurance to fall in love with one of the daughters. The man however did not meet with cold looks from the daughter; but the parent walked a tip-toe at the affront offered their female family. The daughter was notional as well as the parents; they intended to have their notion, but he had her's: and a very good notion it was, for a more happy couple does not exist.

But the strangest of all notions is, that parents will not permit their daughters or sons to love for themselves. I know a widow with a family of likely daughters, who insists upon it that her daughters do not know how to love for themselves; she therefore means to love for them. She is an odd woman, and a notional creature; but every one to his notion.

ACCOUNT *of the late* ROBERT BARKER, *Esq.*

THIS gentleman was the inventer of the panorama, or an invention by which we *see all.* He was a native of Ireland, born in Kells, in the county of Meath, and began business in Dublin, but being unsuccessful became embarrassed, which led to the profession he afterwards adopted of miniature and portrait painting. When he began painting is not exactly known; but he followed the profession with wonderful success, when we consider that he had no advantages from early tuition in the arts.

Leaving Ireland he went to Scotland, and settled in Edinburgh, where he followed the line of a portrait painter. It is impossible to view the romantic situation of the venerable capital of Scotland without feeling the most sublime impressions. It was contemplating this varied scene of beauty and grandeur on the Calton Hill, which first led Mr. Barker to think of paint-

ing on an entire circle. When he looked around and saw no end to the interest of the scene; when he considered that the local beauties were heightened by a combination of the whole; he regretted the confined rules of the art, and determined to try, at least, if they could not be extended. Not being regularly bred an artist, was, in this instance perhaps, of advantage to him; as he was unfettered by those rules which had been so long established. Possessing a clear mind, and quick understanding, he had acquired a perfect knowledge of the laws of perspective, and was enabled, by that means, to surmount the many difficulties which so new and bold an undertaking presented to him.

It was about the year 1787, that he determined to execute a small half circle to prove the possibility of the undertaking; for which purpose a view of Edinburgh was painted, by him, in water-colours, and taken up to London. Sir Joshua Reynolds was the first person he communicated his idea to, who could not see the possibility of deviating from the established angle, without violating the laws of perspective, and, therefore, treated it as an extraordinary idea, but chimerical, and impracticable. Notwithstanding, Mr. Barker considered it a great improvement to the formerly confined art of painting, and took out a patent for the invention, under the title of *La Nature à Coup d' Œil.*

The first entire circle was a view of Edinburgh painted in water colours, and exhibited, by lamplight, in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London. From the smallness of the circle, it was not sufficiently striking to attract what is called the public, though it met with the general approbation of those who saw it. A view of London, taken from the Albion Mills, was the next subject of public exhibition. From its size, and the difficulty of procuring ground in a central situation, Mr. Barker was obliged to put up an half circle, which contained but half the view. This picture attracted much public attention; and Sir Joshua Reynolds, who had before thought the idea ridiculous, now felt his error. When he saw the deception produced, he was astonished, and paid Mr. Barker the highest compliments as inventor of, what he considered, the greatest improvement in the descriptive art. A piece of ground becoming vacant in Leicester-square, Mr. Barker took it, and erected the present rotunda, the diameter of which is 90 feet. The first picture he exhibited upon this great scale was a view of the Russian armament at Spithead. His majesty, with the queen and princesses honoured the first opening with their presence, and it became the object of general curiosity and attraction. Thus was completed one of the most extraordinary efforts of the human mind; an effort which gives unlimited

space to the art of painting, and leads the astonished observer to fancy himself upon the spot represented.

Hierocles's Description of a Good Wife.

HOW sweet to the soul of man is the society of a beloved wife! When wearied and broken down by the labours of the day, her endearments soothe, her tender cares restore him. The solicitudes and anxieties, and the heavier misfortunes of life, are hardly to be borne by him who has the weight of business and domestic cares at the time to contend with. But how much lighter do they seem, when, after his necessary avocations are over, he returns to his home, and finds there a partner of all his griefs and troubles, who takes, for his sake, her share of domestic labour upon her, and soothes the anguish of his soul by her comfort and her participation. By the immortal gods! a wife is not, as she is falsely represented and esteemed by some, a burden or a sorrow to man. No! She shares his burdens, and she alleviates his sorrows. For there is no toil nor difficulty so heavy or insupportable in life, but it may be surmounted by the mutual labours and the affectionate concord of that holy partnership.

Hierocles was a platonic philosopher of the fifth century. He taught at Alexandria with great reputation, and was much admired for the strength of his mind, and the beauty and nobleness of his expressions.

Answer, by Triangularius, of Eversholt School, to J. Davey's Question, inserted December 9.

BY a well-known theorem the estate to be divided between 4 sons amount to 240 acres; and it is evident, by demonstration, that the greatest parallelogram that can be inscribed in a plane △ is equal to one-half its area, therefore divide the perpendicular into 2 equal parts, through which draw a right line parallel to the base, then will this line be the length of the parallelogram =50 and 24 will be the breadth thereof. Now by having the segments of the base =64 and 36 the respective parts are easily obtained, thus:

24×50=1200÷10=120 acres for Abraham.
24×50÷ 2 and 10= 60————John.
24×32÷ 2 and 10= 38,4————Paul.
24×18÷ 2 and 10= 21,6————Mark.

Proof 240 acres.

Answer, by J. Woodman, of North Curry, to W. Cross's Rebus, inserted April 14.

THE initials plac'd in order true,
HINDON, in Wilts, appears in view.

†§† We have received the like answer from J. S. and H. Stoneman, of Exeter; T. Coumbe, of S. German's; J. Whittle, of Upway; J. Fairweather, of Batson, near Kingsbridge; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; S. C. Moore, of Horswell-House; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; S. Laurence, of Sidmouth; W. D. of Bristol; R. Gidley, jun. of Dean Prior; W. Glyde, of Lyme Regis; and J. Badcock.

Answer, by W. Mann, of Ashburton, to T. Rutger's Rebus, inserted April 21.

SURE ISINGLASS you did conceal
Beneath a dark, mysterious veil.

An ANAGRAM, *by W. D. C. of Bridgewater.*

A Hebrew measure first transpose;
A city in Europe 'twill disclose;
Expunge a letter, transpose well;
Part of a fish 'twill surely tell;
Transpose again, without a doubt,
A sort of metal 'twill make out.

A CHARADE, *by J. O. Zillwood, of Dorchester.*

TO the recluse, immur'd from sight
Of men, my first affords a light;
My next, ye wits, with ease is found,
An ancient Roman coin or pound.
Collect the parts, the same transpose,
A town in Cheshire they disclose.

A REBUS, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

ONE-HALF of two you first must find;
Two-sixths of what adorns the mind;
Thro' Asia's wide extent survey;
My last a beast it will display:
These parts, when you've aright combin'd,
A stately residence you'll find.

A REBUS, *by Rusticus, of Awliscombe, Devon.*

AN English county first select;
A foreign empire next inspect;
A fragrant flow'r you now must find;
A Grecian hero call to mind;
A town in Devon next display;
An island in the Baltic sea;
The king of Doria next explain,
Who was by Telemachus slain;
And last, that youth you will define
Who to a daffodil did pine:
The initials join, and you will view,
A British admiral—Sirs, adieu!

POETRY.

ODE *for his* MAJESTY's BIRTH-DAY, 1806.

By H. J. PYE, *Esq. Poet-Laureat.*

LONG did chill winter's dreary reign
Usurp the promis'd hours of spring;
Long Eurus, o'er the russet plain,
Malignant wav'd his noisome wing:
O'er April's variegated day
The frolic zephyrs fear'd to play;
The alternate change of suns and showers
Call'd not to life her silken flowers;
But arm'd with whirlwind, frost, and hail,
Winter's ungenial blasts prevail,
And check her vernal powers.

But o'er the renovated plain
See Maia lead her smiling train
Of halcyon hours along;
While burst from every echoing grove
Loud strains of harmony and love,
Preluding to the choral song
Which opening June shall votive pour
To hail with proud acclaim our monarch's natal hour.

Still must that day, to Britain dear,
To Britons joy impart:
Cloudy or bright, that day shall wear
The sunshine of the heart.
And as before the fervid ray
That genial glows in summer skies,
Each cloud that veil'd the beam of day
Far from the azure welkin flies:
So may each cheerless mist, that seems
A while to cloud our prospects fair,
Dispell'd by hope's enlivening beams,
O'er brightening ether fly, and melt away in air.

Awhile tho' fortune adverse frown—
By timid friends their cause betray'd,
With bosom firm and undismay'd,
On force depending all their own,
A living rampire round their parent lord.
The British warriors grasp th' avenging sword;
While youths of royal hope demand the fight,
To assert a monarch and a father's right.
United in one patriot band,
From Albion's, Erin's, Caledonia's land,
Elate in arms, indignant shine
The kindred heroes of the Briton line,
To whelm invasion 'neath our circling flood,
Or stain our verdant fields with Gallia's hostile blood.

The OLD MAN.

SHALL man of frail fruition boast?
Shall life be counted dear?

Oft

Oft but a moment, and at most
A momentary year.

There was a time—that time is past,
When, youth! I bloom'd like thee;
A time will come—'tis coming fast,
When thou shalt fade like me:

Like me thro' varying seasons range,
And past enjoyments mourn;
For, ah! the sweetest spring shall change
To winter in its turn.

In infancy, my vernal prime,
When life itself was new,
Amusement pluck'd the wings of time,
Yet swifter still he flew.

Summer, my youth, succeeded soon,
My sun ascended high,
And pleasure held the reins 'till noon—
But grief drove down the sky.

Like autumn, rich in ripening corn,
Came manhood's sober reign;
My harvest-moon scarce fill'd her horn,
When she began to wane.

Then follow'd age, infirm old age
The winter of my year:
When shall I fall before his rage,
To rise beyond the sphere!

I long to cast the chains away,
That bind me down to earth;
To burst these dungeon-walls of clay,
And start to second birth.

Life lies in embryo.—never free
'Till nature yields her breath,
'Till time becomes eternity,
And man is born in death!

ALCÆUS.

Lines written on seeing an Infant in the Arms of his Mother.

[From Moore's Poems.]

THE first ambrosial child of bliss,
That Psyche to her bosom press'd,
Was not a brighter babe than this,
Nor blush'd upon a lovelier breast!
His little snow-white fingers, straying
Along her lips luxuriant flower,
Look'd like a flight of ring-doves playing,
Silvery 'mid a roseate bower!
And when, to shade the playful boy,
Her dark hair fell, in mazes bright,
Oh! 'twas a type of stolen joy,
'Twas love beneath the veil of night!
Soft as she smil'd, he smil'd again;
They seem'd so kindred in their charms,
That one might think, the babe had then
Just budded in her blooming arms!
He look'd like something form'd of air,
Which she had utter'd in a sigh;
Like some young spirit, resting there,
That ate had wander'd from her eye!